4. Boeing 737

5. Modonnel Douglas MD-30

6. Fokker F-28-4000

7. British Aerospace 146-100

The evaluation of the Airbus A320 aircraft vis-a-vis B-757 aircraft was made by the top management team of Indian Airlines comprising M.D., DMDs and other concerned departmental heads. The study was carried out with the help of officers of the Planning, Finance, Engineering, Operations Commercial and Training Departments. The proposal of Indian Airlines was thereafter considered by the Ministry of Civil Aviation in consultation with all concerned appraisal agencies before according Government approval.

Recruitment of technicians by Indian Airlines

1535. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to reports regarding delay in the recruitment technicians by Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, what are the detals thereof; and

(c) what is the effect of this delay on the maintenance of aircrafts?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATOIN (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) and (b) There has been no delay in recruitment of technicians in Indian Airlines.

(c) Since there is no delay in recruitment of technicians, the question of its effect on maintenance of aircraft does not arise.

Expansion of Indore Airport

1536. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for the expansion of Indore airport and also for increasing the length of its runway:

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is the estimated cost of the said work and what amount of financial allotment, have been made for the same; and

(d) by when the work is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The National Airports Authority has a proposal to extend the existing runway by about 900' and recarpet the existing runway at an estimated cost of Rs. 2 crores. This work has been included in the Draft 8th Five Year Plan and would be taken up for execution by the NAA after the land is acquired and the 8th Plan proposals are approved.

(d) The work is expected to be completed in 18 months from the date of its commencement.

Steps taken for the imorovement of manpower training in Indian Airlines and Vayudoot

1537. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the steps that are being taken by Government to improve the manpower training, maintenance of aircrafts, adequate stocking of spare parts and navigational aids at the airports, in view of the recent airport accidents pertaining to Indian Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): Adequate attention is laid to manpower planning particularly to the engineers and pilots as per the laid down standards. In so far as the requirement of manpower for